

ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS

Legislator Proposes Rigid Regulation of Divorces.

WILL AMEND STATE LAW

Chinese Resident Calls Police and Fire Department Respons.

William R. Topping Dead.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., January 2, 1914.

"I am going to make an effort to stop the divorce evil in this state, and avoid having Virginia made a laughing stock by being called the 'Reno of the South,'" declared J. Fred Birrell, recently chosen a member of the state legislature to represent this city and Alexandria county in that body. Mr. Birrell made the foregoing statement today. He will take his seat February 14.

"It is entirely too easy to obtain a divorce in Virginia under the existing laws," Mr. Birrell said. He further stated that strangers from all sections swarm to Virginia and establish residence in the state simply for the purpose of securing a divorce and then leave for their homes. This he declared to be only a blot on the fair name of the Old Dominion, but detrimental in many other ways to the state.

Mr. Birrell says that one of his first aims when the legislature convenes will be toward obtaining the enactment of divorce laws far more rigid than they are now.

Said Fight; Sounded Like "Fire."

Lee John, a Chinaman, who conducts a restaurant on Royal street between King and Prince streets, was probably the first to clock last night and set the fire department. It happened that a customer, according to Lee, failed to pay for a meal he had eaten. Lee's cook came forward to assist in holding the delinquent until the police and loudly shouted "Fight." The police thought it sounded like fire, and in less time than it takes to tell it, the fire department was on the scene. Lee's establishment.

Improvements the Past Year.

During the year twenty-one squares in the city were improved with roadways. Of this number thirteen were paved with vitrified brick and asphalt block, while eight were improved with cobble, according to figures prepared at the office of City Engineer E. C. Dunn. In addition there were about 3,000 yards of concrete sidewalks laid by the city. This, of course, does not include work done by private parties. More than half a mile of sewer was constructed, or a total of 2,768 feet. The cost of the work was \$17,421, and a total cost being \$57,421, were granted, and one hundred permits for alterations and repairs. The value of which was \$27,127, a grand total of \$84,548.

William R. Topping Dies of Injuries.

William R. Topping, a Southern railway freight conductor, who was injured Wednesday last as the result of the overturning of a freight car at Wolfe and Henry streets, died shortly before midnight last night at the Alexandria Hospital, as a result of the injuries he suffered. Mr. Topping's left leg was so badly mangled that amputation below the knee was necessary. It is also thought he suffered internal injuries.

Mr. Topping was a native of Sterling, London county, Va., and was forty-four years old. He had been employed by the railway company most of his life. His wife, a son and a daughter, William, George and Mary, survive. Mr. Topping was a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the Haver Hill Lodge, No. 1, of the Order of United American Mechanics.

The body was taken to his late home, 208 North Pitt street, and prepared for burial. The arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made.

Fraternity Elections.

These officers have been elected by Alexandria Council, No. 5, Fraternal Order of Americans, to serve for the ensuing six months: Frank C. Glasgow, past president; Robert Ayres, president; Thomas Simpson, vice president; James H. Mansfield, recording secretary; F. S. Lucas, assistant secretary; O. H. Daniels, treasurer; Fred R. Ebbard, financial secretary; L. D. Lyles, chaplain; Charles Astyrke, marshal; John Kimball, warden; Thomas Helms, inner guard; F. L. Conwell, outer guard; G. N. Cradlin, trustee; George Pettit, representative to Grand Council; George R. Smith, alternate; Frank Glasgow, captain of degree team.

The recently elected officers of Mount Vernon Council, No. 1, Daughters of America, will be installed tonight by Mrs. J. H. Mansfield, deputy national councilor, at this city.

Brief Mention.

An unusually large crowd yesterday attended the "dancette" held in the auditorium of the Elks' Home. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of the needy children of the city.

The entertainment given for the young men and boys under the auspices of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union last night, at the Westminster building, was largely patronized.

A meeting of those interested in the poultry show to be held at Armory Hall January 14-17 next, will be held tonight. The office of Harry White, secretary of the association.

The city school board held a meeting last night and transacted considerable business of a routine nature.

ITEM FOR THE DISTRICT

IN THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

Commissioners Ask for \$161,046.11.

Principally for Public Utilities Board.

A deficiency appropriation of \$161,046.11 will be required for the needs of the District of Columbia government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, and prior years, according to a communication sent to the Secretary of the Treasury by the Commissioners today. It is recommended that the estimate be transmitted to Congress for inclusion in the pending urgent deficiency bill. The largest item is for \$110,000, the amount wanted by the public utilities commission with which to make a valuable study of the physical properties of local utilities corporations.

Omitted From District Bill.

The Commissioners provided for this in their estimates, but the item was omitted from the District appropriation bill with the understanding that it was to be carried in the urgent deficiency bill.

Other deficiency estimates submitted by the Commissioners to the Secretary of the Treasury are for expenses in a number of branches of the local government, including the sewer department, schools, metropolitan police and others.

The amount of \$290 is requested for the national compensation of jurors during the fiscal year 1914.

ALMANACS.

By Frederic J. Haakina.

With the recurrence of each new year a flood of publications sweeps through America and Europe that fixes upon the observant man's attention the fact that he is a creature of superstition. These publications are almanacs. They are circulated free as advertising mediums, and are sold in large quantities and are the most popular of all publications. Some of the oldest and most valuable of these almanacs are the "Old Farmer's Almanac" and the "Old Farmer's Almanac."

The average almanac has always been filled with "useful" information from its chapters on the interpretation of dreams to its department on nativities. Besides these valuable features, the usual calendar contains venerable jokes told again; rules for the culture of garden fruits and exact formulas for the warding off of evil spirits and the like. One formerly learned also from his almanac the best amulets against malignant influences and the right charms to wear for protection against disease.

It was long the rule in the publication of almanacs to make them a collection of popular superstitions and wild imaginings of all the ages of man. Adherence to this rule has not been without its effect—that of making the almanac the most widely appreciated type of literature yet devised. The first of the almanacs has been made direct to the Druid ancestor in each of us; and such appeal never fails of eliciting a response.

The first of these popular handbooks appeared in this country in 1639. It was called "The New England Almanac," and was published by William Pierce, Mariner.

It was printed by Stephen Sayre in Cambridge, Mass., and was probably the first printed to be done in the colonies, preceding by a full year the famous Bay State almanac, or the New England Almanac, which was published by the same printer in Cambridge.

Besides embodying the new calendar, the almanac was, at first, chiefly designed to carry predictions of the weather, and thus came naturally by its other superstitions. When the editors of these works became fully conscious of their ability to predict the weather a year in advance, to the complete satisfaction of their readers, they became more spirited, and assigned the meaning of a cankered rosebud in a dream. From this, it was but a short step farther to the determination of whether a brown or black spider, when in a haze net suspended from the neck, is the most efficacious in warding off rheumatism.

Although the almanac as an extensive compendium of facts, and otherwise, begins with the discovery of the printing press, something akin to the almanac in use among all the civilized nations of antiquity, with of the East and West. There are examples of some of these manuscript almanacs from as early as the twelfth century preserved among the library collections of Europe.

Among the French the almanac has

developed the greatest number of varieties. There are almanacs, comic, picturesque, dramatic, critical, lunatic (many other lands have had almanacs of this character), prophetic, chthonic, astrological, democratic, astrological, anecdotic, du laboure, des dames, des sages, together with a large number of sub-varieties.

It is also probably in France that astrology began its conquest of the almanac, with the result, toward the beginning of modern times, of the development of the almanac as the official organ of the occult. Yostadamus, a noted French astrologer, began the publication of an almanac bearing his name in 1550. From the date of this publication it has been the recognized function of the almanac to teach the unknown and to explain the unexplainable. The occult nature of these publications has been the strongest element of their popularity. Although polite society is firmly convinced that it has outgrown astrology, black magic and kindred sciences, the almanac's pages of folklore are the reliables by which it maintains its present wide circulation in competition with the free calendar, which is scattered over the land each year by insurance companies, manufacturing, banking and real estate concerns for purposes of advertisement.

Influenced by the spirit of scientific awakening, and its accompanying fanaticism for facts and truth, which began to spread among the people during the latter years of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth, a class of publishers developed determination to reform the accepted plans for the compilation of almanacs. They determined to make these works scientific and respected as sources of authentic knowledge.

In the accomplishment of their reform, they filled their almanacs with statistics, geographic and astronomical notices, and classic authors, bright bits of verse of all times, sage reflections upon life and rules of proper conduct, and a miscellany of other facts, including advice to agriculturists.

Rules of Conduct

Are Laid Down.

Some of the best known of these publications are "The Almanac," begun in 1725 at Boston, and published continuously for fifty years; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1726; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1729; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1733; and "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1737. The Almanac de Gotha, in Germany, is one of the most celebrated of reformed almanacs. It made its first appearance in 1704, and has been published and enlarged continuously since. This almanac has come to be recognized as an authority upon the genealogy of the royal and noble families of Europe. On account of this feature it is almost as well known in this country as abroad. Its lists of officials and its statistical information upon the governments of the world make it a valuable work of reference.

Astrologers also were the founders of the English almanac, of which they had almost a monopoly of publication for about 200 years. One of these renowned editors was William Lilly, who began the publication of his Ephemeris in 1644. The almanac of "Francis Moore, Physician," issued by a quack doctor and master magician of Westminster, also won a large place in the people's affections. This impostor began his career about 1638. Many copies of these early almanacs are preserved in England, and their values are estimated in vast sums of money.

White's Celestial Atlas, or Ephemeris, was one of the almanacs to indicate clearly by its title that peculiar need to which its type of reference pamphlet had come to minister. This "Celestial Atlas" contained information concerning lucky and unlucky days, nativities, a list of events, earthquakes, eclipses and other whose causes should be sought in supernatural or planetary agencies, and there were formulae of charms against the devil.

Charles Knight reformed the character of the British almanac in 1827. Before Knight, Poor Robin's Almanac, established in 1683, and still published, and

John Partridge's Mercurius Liberatus, started in 1681, became famous. Among some of the best known almanacs, all of them of the modern type, are Whitaker's Almanac, first issued in 1861; Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory of Great Britain, begun in 1844; Oliver & Boyd's Edinburgh Almanac, founded in 1846; The Financial Reform Almanac, started in 1867, and the Statesman's Year Book, founded in 1864.

History of Printing

Dates From Almanac.

The history of printing in America practically starts with the issue of an almanac by William Pierce in 1639. These publications have been issued regularly in Cambridge since that year. There is no known copy of this first American almanac in existence. However, there are enough other copies of early almanacs published in the colonies preserved in private libraries to form a basis for good conjecture upon its composition.

Almanacs were early published in other American cities. In Boston the first almanac was printed by John Foster in 1678. The first to be issued in Philadelphia was edited by Daniel Leeds and printed by William Bradford, whose name is interwoven in the title of the first almanac in New York in 1697. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the almanac had secured its hold upon the literary market of the New World, which in a large degree, it is still maintaining.

The history of the early almanacs of this country would form many chapters of a long and entertaining story. Some of the best known of these publications are "The Almanac," begun in 1725 at Boston, and published continuously for fifty years; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1726; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1729; "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1733; and "The Almanac," Philadelphia, 1737.

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THE COURTS.

United States Court of Claims.

Assignments for Monday, January 5, 1914:

Call of French spoliation motions to dismiss.

For River Ship and Engine Building Company; attorneys, Brandenburg & Brandenburg and C. F. Jones.

For Reel; attorneys, King & King and G. T. Stormont.

Sanford & Brooks; attorneys, C. C. Callahan and S. S. Ashbaugh.

Joseph V. Gearing; attorneys, Stockslager & Heard and George M. Anderson.

W. W. Austell, executor; attorneys, John Raum and W. F. Norris.

Cases posted for trial Tuesday:

Trial calendar numbers 5, 6, 7, 8 (law lot 1040, 12565, 10, 14, 22, 53 and 17.

District Supreme Court.

EQUITY COURT NO. 2—Justice Stafford.

Milliken agt. Milliken; rule as to contempt returnable January 9, 1914; plaintiff's attorneys, James M. Proctor and W. E. Ambrose; defendant's attorney, Ingham agt. Ingham; alimony, counsel fees and costs awarded; plaintiff's attorneys, J. F. Schick and Andrew Gilman; defendant's attorney, S. McComas Hawken.

Katz agt. Heinger; order substituting trustee; plaintiff's attorney, M. Stearns; defendant's attorney, H. H. Hegarty.

Havener agt. Floecker; trustee authorized to accept offer; plaintiff's attorney, P. H. Marshall.

Continued to January 9; plaintiff's attorneys, Peyton Gordon and D. W. Baker; defendant's attorneys, Lyon & Lyon.

CIRCUIT COURT NO. 2—Justice Amberson.

Van Sunden agt. Anderson; motion for judgment denied; plaintiff's attorney, Charles Poe; defendant's attorneys, Ralston & Richardson.

Freilighuysen agt. Johnson; demurrer to first and second pleas sustained; plaintiff's attorney, A. L. Handy.

Whitford agt. Engel; motion for judgment continued; leave granted defendant to file substitute affidavit of defense within ten days, otherwise judgment to be granted; plaintiff's attorneys, F. J. Hogan and G. L. Whitford; defendant's attorney, J. A. Burkart.

Reid agt. Selby Company; commissions ordered to issue and security for costs ordered in ten days; plaintiff's attorney, T. H. Patterson; defendant's attorney, H. Linton.

Curry agt. McAvoy; leave granted Charles F. Wilson to withdraw appearance for defendant.

Neal agt. Bancker Relief Association; motion for judgment under seventy-third rule denied; plaintiff's attorneys, Collins & Clarke; defendant's attorney, W. E. Ambrose.

Quander agt. Horton; motion for bill of particulars overruled; plaintiff's attorney, George L. Whitford; defendant's attorney, Milton Stralsburger.

PROBATE COURT—Justice Stafford.

Estate of Rosamond O. Ward; petition for letters of administration filed; attorneys, Ellen S. Mussey and E. C. Dutton.

Estate of Henry Reter; letters of administration granted to Charles H. Reter; bond, \$500; attorney, J. R. Fague.

Estate of Mary A. Riley; petition for probate of will filed; attorneys, Gordon & Gordon.

Estate of Charles H. Boyle; petition for sale filed; attorney, G. P. McElue.

Estate of Laura Webb; petition for letters of administration filed; attorney, W. C. Balderston.

Miss Ethel M. Nigh and Ernest L. Dayhoff were married Thursday at the bride's home, near Hagerstown, Md.

Real Estate Transfers.

FLORAL HILL—John S. Belt to Barbara E. Ford, lot 12, square 5585, and lots 31 and 57, square 3578; \$10.

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ADDITION TO ANACOSTIA—James T. Harrison et ux. to Lawrence J. Quill, lot 550; \$10.

OAK VIEW—Louise Taylor to G. B. Eslin, lot 15, block 6; \$10.

ESLIN ESTATE—Henshaw R. Howenstein et ux. to Reuben C. and Sarah C. Hayward, lot 685; \$10.

FLORAL HILL—John S. Belt to Stephen H. Hines, lot 11, square 5585, and lot 20, square 5586; \$10.

ADDITION TO TAKOMA PARK—Fred H. Thomas et ux. to Joseph B. Thomas, lot 2, block 13; \$10.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS—Allan E. Walker et ux. to Blanche P. Walker, lot 42, block 8; lots 17 and 18, block 9; lots 9, 30 and 31, block 10; all blocks west of lot 17, lots 21, 22 and 36, block 18; lots 19 and 20, block 22; \$10.

PETWORTH—Allan E. Walker et ux. to Blanche P. Walker, lot 42, block 8; lots 17 and 18, block 9; lots 9, 30 and 31, block 10; all blocks west of lot 17, lots 21, 22 and 36, block 18; lots 19 and 20, block 22; \$10.

NO. 1018 19TH STREET NORTHWEST—Jean D. Long et al. to Mary E. Meyer, part original lot 20, square 85; \$10.

NO. 1448 E STREET SOUTHEAST—William H. Saunders et al. trustees, to the National Realty Co., lot 32, square 1062; \$2,025.

C STREET SOUTHEAST between 10th and 17th streets, lot 20, square 85; \$10.

NO. 231 8TH STREET SOUTHEAST—John F. Leddon to Thomas E. Jacobs, lot 20, square 900; \$10.

TRINITY—M. H. Harvey to Jacob S. Gruver, lot 4, block 3; \$10.

DOBBIN'S ADDITION—Francis A. Blundon et ux. to Leon Wasserman, lot 66, square 3501; \$10.

INTEREST—Robert W. Dutton et al. to Susan A. Dutton, all interest in estate of George W. Dutton; \$10.

Building Permits.

Building permits were issued today to the following:

F. I. Ward, to build garage at 122 U street northwest; architect and builder, B. F. Seaton; estimated cost, \$400.

Corby Company, Incorporated, to repair storehouse at 24th and Channing streets northwest; estimated cost, \$1,000.

Washington Market Company, to repair market in Center market; estimated cost, \$450.

J. J. Carragher, to repair dwelling at 810 H street southwest; estimated cost, \$100.

M. A. Finch, to repair stable in rear of 1223 10th street southeast; estimated cost, \$75.

Held on Charge of Killing Wife.

Harrison S. Armstrong, colored, was held for the action of the grand jury by a coroner's jury today on a charge of killing his wife, Martha Armstrong, while in her sister's home, 447 Neel place northwest, Wednesday afternoon.

The Oystermen's Protective Association of Bowens, Calvert county, Md., held a rally and gave a public oyster supper in the town hall Wednesday evening.

ARMY—NAVY.

Army Orders.

The name of First Lieut. Benjamin M. Bailey, 5th Field Artillery, is placed on the list of detached officers, and the name of First Lieut. Donald C. Cubblison, Field Artillery, is removed therefrom. Lieut. Cubblison is assigned to the 8th Field Artillery.

First Lieut. Ernest B. Smalley, 28th Infantry, is detailed for general recruiting service at Fort Slocum, N. Y., relieving First Lieut. Donald C. Cubblison, Field Artillery.

Major Arthur W. Chase, Coast Artillery Corps, is relieved from duty at Fort Winfield Scott, and is assigned to duty at Fort Miley, Cal.

Quartermaster Sergt. Tom Ward, Quartermaster Corps, at Washington barracks, District of Columbia, will be sent to the Walter Reed General Hospital for duty.

Naval Orders.

Chief Machinist C. C. Nelson, from Rhode Island to treatment Naval Hospital, New York, N. Y.

Chief Carpenter Frank Johnson, from Union Iron works, San Francisco, Cal., to California.

Naval Movements.

The New Jersey, Virginia and Dolphin have arrived at Vera Cruz, the Patuxent and Caesar at Pensacola, the Connecticut and Kansas at Tampico, the Lebanon at Guantanamo, the Brutus at Portsmouth, N. H.; the Chester at Ship Island, the Raleigh, Justin and Annapolis at Mazatlan and the Cassin, Cummings and Duncan at Key West.

The Petrel has sailed from Guantanamo for Santo Domingo city, and the Callao from Hongkong for West River.

If you want work, read the want columns of The Star.

LOSS OF GOLD OUTPUT

\$11,000,000 IN YEAR

Canada and British India Show an Increase for 1913.

However.

With Mexico, the Transvaal and Australia, as well as the United States, producing \$11,000,000 less gold than during the preceding year, the "gold value" of the year 1913 was \$455,000,000. This estimate, his first for the year 1914, has been made by George E. Roberts, director of the United States mint.

As the result of the civil strife in Mexico, the production there fell off \$5,000,000. A \$5,000,000 decrease was recorded in the output from the Transvaal. Australia showed a \$1,000,000 decrease. The production of \$88,301,023 in the United States was \$5,000,000 short of the showing in 1912.

Canada exceeded its output of 1912 by about \$2,700,000. British India also showed an increase of \$1,000,000. There were smaller gains elsewhere.

California was first among the states of the Union in the production of gold, with a total of 972,901 fine ounces, valued at \$29,105,441. Colorado came second with a production valued at \$18,420,631; Alaska third, \$14,782,512; Nevada fourth, \$12,279,131; South Dakota fifth, \$1,197,498; Arizona sixth, \$1,866,059; Utah seventh, \$3,490,103; Montana eighth, \$3,078,230. Some other states also produced small quantities.

Nevada led the silver-producing states of the United States, yielding over to the commercial value of \$8,123,229; Montana was second with \$7,880,198, and Utah Idaho and Colorado were among the five leading states.

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